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Rural District of Bridgwater



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1959



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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1959

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MR. F.W. MOVERLEY

Vice Chairman:

MR. E. STOREY

MR. R.T. ADDICOTT

MR. R. MEADE

MR. J.W.H. HANGER
(Vice Chairman of Council)
(ex-officio)

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(Deputy Vice-Chairman of
Council) (ex-officio)

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MR. A.M.P. LUSCOMBE
(Chairman of Council)
(ex-officio)

MRS. H.J. STREET

DR. W.R. THROWER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1959

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F.A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

B.S. YULE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

D.J. EMM, M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1959

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

August, 1960.

To:

The Chairman and Members of the
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1959. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

As far as can be judged from a study of the vital statistics, the general health of the District was satisfactory during the year. The figures show little variation from those of the previous year and compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

A particularly dry summer led to serious difficulties under water shortage and for many months it was necessary to restrict the use of the mains water supply. At the height of the season it was necessary to cut off the supply from 9.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.. The co-operation of the public during this difficult period was excellent, but obviously much inconvenience was caused and it is therefore particularly gratifying to report that at the time of writing this report a good start has been made on the Borough Council's scheme to provide a new storage reservoir at Hawkridge.

Polio immunisation has taken up a lot of time. In 1958 and early 1959 pre-school children and children of school age were the age groups principally involved, but following the death of a well known footballer, there was a sudden and unprecedented demand for protection by the older age groups. To meet this situation, special immunisation clinics were held twice weekly at the Bridgwater Health Centre, and visits by an immunisation team were paid to the larger factories in the District. General practitioners also played a full part in dealing with the demand, and during the year 3,724 persons in the Rural District received a full primary course of two injections and 3,527 persons received the third reinforcing injection. The corresponding figures for the combined area were 10,053 and 8,702. Thus during the year some 29,000 polio injections were given to members of the public, and the majority were given by the staff of the department. It follows naturally that there was considerable interference with other work and many duties, mainly County Council responsibilities, have not received the attention that is their due.

An incident which caused a considerable amount of work to the Department was the discovery that a dairy herd was extensively infected with Brucellosis Melitensis. This case, details of which are already well known to members of the Council, clearly highlighted the deficiencies in existing legislation to ensure effective safeguard to public health. Representations and discussions with representatives of the Ministries concerned failed to produce any satisfactory results.

Slum clearance and the provision of satisfactory houses by the Council and by private enterprise has proceeded most satisfactorily.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, the other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	86,000
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1959	20,220
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1959	6,400
Rateable value on 31st December, 1959	£172,845
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1959	£732.3.11d

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1959

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	180	151	331
Illegitimate	7	10	17
	<u>187</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>348</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.21
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.89
Still Births	7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	19.72
Total live and still births	355
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total	17.27
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	18.13
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	14.37
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	33.80
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

Deaths.

Total number of deaths	236
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.12

The birth rate of any area will be dependent upon the composition of the population of that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 17.21 to 18.09 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.5.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Bridgwater Rural District	16.03	16.02	16.20	17.41	17.21
Standardised Birth Rate	17.47	17.46	17.50	18.80	18.09
England and Wales	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1959 was 153. Of these 12 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 90 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District. (50 at Taunton hospitals and 40 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 236, (131 males and 105 females). This was 22 more than in the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 11.12 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 10.23 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Bridgwater Rural District	10.40	10.25	12.09	10.71	11.12
Standardised Death Rate	8.84	9.42	11.12	9.75	10.23
England and Wales	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6

Of 236 deaths, 142 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 55 occurred in people in the productive age groups 20 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group:-

	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system			1			1
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus			3	7		10
Malignant neoplasm of breast				2	2	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				1	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia				1	2	3
Vascular lesions of the nervous system		2	1	2	1	6
Coronary disease and angina			3	4	5	12
Other circulatory disease				2		2
Pneumonia			1			1
Bronchitis				1		1
Other diseases of respiratory system				1		1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum				1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis				1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		1		2	1	4
Accidents			1		2	3
All causes		3	10	25	17	55

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Rural District residents from cancer was 42 (males 20, females 22), as compared with 29 in 1958. They constitute 17.8% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 42 cases:-

	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1958
Stomach	1	2	3	3
Lung, bronchus	6	2	8	7
Breast	-	7	7	4
Uterus	-	1	1	2
Other and unspecified organs	13	10	23	13
Total	20	22	42	29

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1956						2	1	3
1957				1	2	2	2	7
1958					1	4	2	7
1959				1	3	2	2	8
Total				2	6	10	7	25

Infantile Mortality.

6 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 17.27 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 22.0.

The following table shows the cause of death in each case:-

Infantile Mortality during 1959

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3				3
Atelectasis	2				2
Congenital heart disease			1		1
	5		1		6

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 236 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 52, females 25). It represented 32% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.8 per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

7 deaths were due to accidents, of which 2 were due to road accidents and 5 were due to other accidents.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	131	105	236
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	-	1
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	6	2	8
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	10	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	15	20	35
18. Coronary disease and angina	38	9	47
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
20. Other heart disease	11	15	26
21. Other circulatory disease	4	11	15
22. Influenza	2	3	5
23. Pneumonia	2	3	5
24. Bronchitis	5	1	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	-	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	13	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

Population.

The estimated population of the Rural District as at June 1959 was 20,220, which shows an increase of 230 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 112, and therefore there was an increase in population of 118 due to immigration.

It is interesting to note the population changes which have taken place in recent years and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years.

Year	Population increase	Natural increase	Change due to emigration or immigration
1948	387	150	+ 237
1949	93	115	- 22
1950	200	82	+ 118
1951	480	58	+ 422
1952	- 610	82	- 692
1953	840	119	+ 721
1954	160	46	+ 114
1955	- 80	129	- 209
1956	400	120	+ 280
1957	- 610	83	- 693
1958	- 190	134	- 324
1959	230	112	+ 118

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1959. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners, or by the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases notified	
	1959	1958
Scarlet fever	18	23
Whooping cough	-	65
Acute poliomyelitis	-	2
Measles	186	25
Dysentery	1	-
Pneumonia	5	9
Erysipelas	1	-
Food poisoning	7	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	3
Gastro enteritis	-	1
Acute encephalitis	-	2
Total	219	130

Measles.

1959 was a "measles" year. 186 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

(a) Cases

No cases were notified.

(b) Vaccination

The following table shows the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections) and number of persons who received a third (reinforcing injection) during the year 1959:-

Born in year:-	Young persons	Children	Other Groups			No. of persons (all groups) who recd. a third (reinforcing) injection.
	1933-42	1943-59	Exp. Mothers	Drs. & families	Amb. staff & fams.	
	1,225	2,340	149	9	1	3,527

Tuberculosis.

4 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory new cases of tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 9 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory cases in 1958.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.59	91	13
Number of new cases during the year	4	2
Number of deaths during the year	1	1

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All known cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation. The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year.

Age:-	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65 & over	Age unknown	Total
Male	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	4
Female	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years, attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 361 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with the tubercle bacillus. 295 of these gave a negative test and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Food Poisoning.

One outbreak of food poisoning was investigated. This was a school outbreak affecting six children and a teacher. The cause of the outbreak was traced to an infected school meals helper who was put off work, and the incident was ended.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 231 children under the age of 5 years and 12 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years, were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 243.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of primary vaccinations against smallpox has shown a slight rise as compared with the previous year. A high proportion of all vaccinations is carried out because of the requirements of other countries in respect of immigrants.

Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1958

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
117	-	5	-	2	1	4	2	9	17	137	20

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South West Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

In previous reports I have drawn attention to the inadequacy of accommodation at Bridgwater General Hospital. It is understood that the Regional Hospital Board propose to provide a new casualty department in 1962 as a first stage in the redevelopment of the hospital, and then to press the Ministry of Health to fully develop the coal yard site for the provision of traumatic orthopaedic beds, a new operating theatre, kitchen etc., and to follow this by a third stage development including the provision of wards on the site adjacent to Broadway. The proposals of the Regional Board appear to be reasonably comprehensive.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood grouping, Rhesus Factor, etc.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Edington, Puriton, Woolavington, North Petherton, Nether Stowey, East Huntspill and West Huntspill.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were helped during the year by informal action and in no case was it necessary to take statutory action to secure the removal of an old person.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewage Disposal.

A comprehensive report on sewage disposal was prepared in respect of all those parishes in which the Council were considering sewage disposal schemes, and the various schemes were placed in a recommended order of priority. Restrictions on capital expenditure had almost brought the Council's programme to a standstill, but during the year it was indicated that

further progress could be anticipated and in fact the Pawlett scheme has been practically completed. Schemes in relation to many other parishes have reached an advanced stage of preparation and the current year should see more satisfactory progress.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of water supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. Considerable concern was however occasioned by the discovery of serious pollution of the Goathurst supply. Personal contact was immediately established with all consumers who were advised to boil all water used for human consumption. Because of continuation of the pollution, consumers were at a later date reminded by letter of the advisability of boiling this water. At the same time, in order to reduce the risk of infection, the Council chlorinated the supply, although it was appreciated that for technical reasons this could not be relied upon to provide adequate safeguard. The ownership of this water supply and responsibility for ensuring a safe supply raised a number of complex legal problems which were investigated by the Clerk's department. It still remains for effective measures to be taken to provide the consumers of this water supply with a pure water, reasonably protected from risk of contamination.

Results of bacteriological tests can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of examinations	Report	
		satisfactory	Not satisfactory
1. Fiddington	13	10	3
2. Goathurst	32	19	13
3. Thurloxton	16	8	8
4. Willoughby	12	12	-
5. Over Stowey	12	12	-

Housing.

During 1959, the Local Authority erected 30 houses, compared with 37 in 1958. Private enterprise built 133 houses in 1959, compared with 81 in 1958. At the end of the year there were approximately 500 applicants for Council houses, compared with 338 at the end of the previous year.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1959, was as follows:-

(a) Erected by the Local Authority	704
(b) Erected by Private Enterprise	292

Improvement Grants.

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards. The following table summarises the action taken:-

(1) Received		(2) Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
48	55	48	55

For some considerable time housing conditions on the Woolavington Housing Estate had caused some concern. This estate of 200 temporary war time dwellings with minimal standards of accommodation was deteriorating and a report recommending the total redevelopment of the estate was accepted by the Council. It is gratifying to report that following negotiations with the Ministries concerned, the Council have now acquired this estate with a view to its redevelopment by a building programme to be phased over a comparatively short period of years.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twentieth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk. All the Public Health Inspectors hold the Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate in addition to the statutory qualification.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 145, a decrease of 23 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve five Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 112 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 430.

A special survey of the drainage of property in the parish of Shapwick was carried out during the year and 40 inspections were made for this purpose.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken from the five sources of supply controlled by the Council at monthly intervals, and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

Samples were also taken before mains were again brought into use after the insertion of new valves or alterations to fittings, and before extensions to mains were brought into use.

A total of 120 visits were made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of inspections carried out under the Housing Acts was 1,099, the number of separate houses inspected being 727.

Informal notices requiring the execution of repairs were sent to owners of unfit houses where the probable cost of the repairs was considered to be reasonable in relation to the value of the house and this resulted in the repair and improvement of 139 houses. A number of interviews with owners, agents and builders took place, and many additional visits were made to inspect work in progress and on completion.

The availability of Discretionary and Standard Improvement Grants was brought to the notice of owners in every suitable case, and advice and information supplied in regard to work which would qualify for grant.

Considerable progress with the Slum Clearance programme was made during the year and the Council were able to transfer 14 families from condemned houses into houses owned by the Council.

36 houses were represented as unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 15 Demolition Orders and 10 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 7 cases the Council agreed to accept undertakings to carry out approved works within a stipulated time and in one case an undertaking not to use for human habitation was accepted. 31 houses, the subject of Demolition Orders, were demolished during the year.

191 visits were made during the year to 90 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

35 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants were made under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

130 visits were made in connection with Improvement Grants.

OVERCROWDING.

Five new cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year, and three cases were abated by informal action.

Nine visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937:-

	Number on Register	Insp.	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	70	94	13	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority				
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
TOTAL	70	94	13	

The 94 visits made were in respect to 70 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	9				
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		1		1	
TOTAL	11	2		1	

BAKEHOUSES.

Twenty three visits were made to the 14 bakehouses in the District at the end of the year, and informal notices were duly complied with.

SHOPS.

One hundred and thirty inspections of shops were carried out, in respect to 90 of the 118 shops in the District.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following improvements were carried out, generally as a result of informal action:-

W.Cs.	27
Baths	14
Sinks	20
Drainage systems	20
Lavatory basins	10
Connections to sewer	10
Larders	2
Internal water supply	3

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

It has again been possible to increase the rate of inspection of food premises during the year and 296 visits have been made for this purpose to 197 establishments. These visits are in addition to those in respect to dairies, bakehouses, ice cream premises, licensed premises and slaughterhouses which are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

A fairly good standard of hygiene has been maintained in food premises during the year, and every effort has been made to encourage food traders to improve their methods of handling food and to maintain their premises and equipment in a satisfactory manner. Improvements in various ways have been obtained as a result of informal action, but in one serious case where persuasion failed it was necessary to take action in the Magistrates Court which resulted in the defendant being convicted on four counts and fined a total of £20.

The result of the informal action taken was that 47 deficiencies under the Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied during the year, and in addition the following improvements in facilities and equipment were carried out:

Refrigerators	2
Deep Freeze Cabinets	14
Refrigerated Display Counters	3
Washbasins	4
Water Heaters	2
W.Cs.	3
Sinks	5

FOOD HYGIENE. (Cont.)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

Licensed houses and Clubs	69
Catering Establishments	42
Food Shops	81
Butchers Shops	11
Bakers and Confectioners	14
Fish Shops	3
Fried Fish Shops	2
School Kitchens	37

LICENSED PREMISES.

Ninety one inspections of licensed premises were carried out.

A number of minor improvements at licensed premises were carried out during the year. In one case the owner was not prepared to carry out the work required to bring the premises up to a satisfactory standard, and in consequence the licence was surrendered and the house closed.

MEAT AND FOODS.

There are nine licensed slaughterhouses in the District, four of which are engaged in the wholesale trade. Slaughtering in these four premises takes place on five days a week and in consequence a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to meat inspection particularly at weekends when the greatest number of animals is killed. Every effort is made to inspect as much meat as possible but by reason of the wide area over which the slaughterhouses are situated and the fact that the maximum kill in each of the wholesale slaughterhouses takes place at approximately the same time 100% meat inspection is still impracticable.

24,453 animals were inspected during the year - 826 beasts, 449 cows, 9,072 calves, 7,894 sheep and 6,212 pigs. 1,410 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat, giving an average of 17 animals inspected per visit.

The number of animals inspected was 946 more than in 1958.

Approximately 14 tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

Carcases and organs	2
Heads and tongues	6
Livers	55
Lungs	7
Hearts	1

MEAT AND FOODS (Cont.)

Kidneys	1
Skirts	4
Beef	282 lbs.

Cows.

Carcases and organs	26
Heads and tongues	7
Livers	101
Lungs	2
Kidneys	3
Hearts	2
Beef	1,510 lbs.

Calves.

Carcases and organs	56
Livers	9
Lungs	1
Kidneys	9
Plucks	1
Veal	110 lbs.

Sheep.

Carcases and organs	95
Livers	185
Lungs	27
Plucks	9
Mutton	195 lbs.

Pigs.

Carcases and organs	37
Heads and tongues	108
Livers	45
Lungs	173
Hearts	22
Kidneys	33
Plucks	32
Pork	55 lbs.
Skirts	14

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number inspected	826	449	9,072	7,894	6,212	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis - whole carcases condemned	1	26	56	95	34	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	69	127	28	234	299	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.5	34.1	.9	4.2	5.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> - WHOLE carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	101	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.4	.2	-	-	1.7	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT AND FOODS (Cont.)

Other food condemned.

30 lbs. cooked beef
16 tins ham
2 lbs. sausages
2 pkts. various foods
28 tins various foods

There are six premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

Condemned food is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam under pressure.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 7 and 15 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 83, and 2 premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Each of these manufacturers produced ice cream by the "cold mix" method, followed by boiling the product.

Thirty samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:-

24 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 1.
5 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 2.
1 sample was placed in Provisional Grade 3.

A total of 61 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

KNACKERS YARD.

The knackers yard at Dunball is being maintained in very good condition and was visited on 6 occasions during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

162 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are fifteen licensed camping sites in the district, all of which are small. Licences have been issued to station and use thirty nine caravans on individual sites.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (Cont.)

From the number of inquiries and visits from occupiers of caravans it is evident that there is a need for additional camping site accommodation for residential purposes. All the camping sites in the District are occupied to capacity. The number of caravans permitted on one site was increased from 24 to 36 during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Eighteen disinfections were carried out during the year, a total of 40 visits being made in connection with infectious diseases.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Seven treatments for the destruction of vermin were carried out during the year; a total of 20 visits were made in connection with verminous premises.

In the autumn a considerable number of complaints in regard to the presence of flies in enormous numbers in roof spaces was received and advice was given as to the best methods of extermination.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

Thirteen visits were made in connection with rodent infestation in addition to those made by the Rodent Operative.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water supply	120
Knackers Yard	6
Moveable Dwellings	162
Factories	94
Bakehouses	23
Shops	130
Rodent Infestation	13
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	25
Nuisances	430
New Work	191
Housing Inspections (Slum Clearance)	259
Housing repairs	643
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	23
Overcrowding	9
Housing (R.W.) and (F.P.) Acts	35
Infectious Diseases	40
Verminous premises	20
Inspection of Meat	1,410
Dairies	15
Ice cream	61
Licensed premises	91
Smoke observations	9
Improvement Grants	130
Shapwick drainage	40
Refuse Disposal	5
School Kitchens	32
Drains tested	65
Food Hygiene	368
Food Poisoning	2
Miscellaneous Food	37
Waste Food boiling plants	4
Brucellosis Melitensis	8

TOTAL	4,500
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I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

F.A. MAILE

Chief Public Health Inspector.

